

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 EB-07 PA-01 L-03 PRS-01 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
/062 W

-----070317Z 098824 /70

R 070232Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7875
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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REF: A) BANGKOK 32047 (NOTAL) B) BANGKOK 34098 (NOTAL)
C) STATE 284110 (NOTAL) D) BANGKOK 30940 (NOTAL)

SER/CFS AND A/AID FOR KENDRICK

SEOUL FOR LUKE ROEHM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EMIN, TH
SUBJ: COUNTRY FINANCED SERVICES: RTG REQUEST FOR NATURAL GAS
PROJECT ASSISTANCE

1. MR PHISUT SUDASNA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF MINERAL RESOURCES (DMR), ASKED EMBOFF INFORMALLY JAN 6
WHETHER USG WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST RTG IN PREPARING PRE-
INVESTMENT STUDY OF POTENTIAL NATURAL GAS RESERVES IN GULF
OF SIAM. STUDY REPORT WOULD INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING
POTENTIAL USES, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO USE AS FUEL TO
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GENERATE ELECTRICITY. EMBOFFS HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED WITH
MR. PHISUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT USG MIGHT BE ABLE ASSIST
WITH FEASIBILITY STUDIES UNDER ARTICLES 607 AND
661 OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT.

2. IN RESPONSE MR. PHISUT'S PROBE, EMBOFF UNDERTOOK TO
RELAY REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT AND EXPRESSED HOPE USG

COULD PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT EARLY DATE ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS, ADDING THAT ASSISTANCE ON GRANT BASIS MIGHT BE A POSSIBILITY, DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES. MR. PHISUT SAID HIS MAIN INTEREST IS IN PROCEEDING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THAT ALTHOUGH RTG WOULD NATURALLY PREFER TO RECEIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITHOUT COST, HE IS PREPARED TO LOOK AT USG PROPOSAL FOR WHICH RTG WOULD PAY IN ENTIRETY OR IN PART.

3. MR. PHISUT SAID THAT FIRMS FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES HAVE APPROACHED DMR ABOUT DOING STUDY ON GAS RESERVES BUT THAT PARTICIPATION BY THESE FIRMS MIGHT BE "DETRIMENTAL TO NEGOTIATIONS ON THAILAND'S CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY LINES." MR. PHISUT DECLINED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON THIS MATTER.

4. RTG HAS ALREADY CONTRACTED WITH UK AND FRENCH FIRMS FOR STUDIES OF NATURAL GAS PRICE STRUCTURE AND MARKET POTENTIAL. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD SERVE POTENTIAL U.S. COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, IN TERMS OF BOTH GAS PRODUCTION AND PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION POSSIBILITIES, TO COOPERATE WITH DMR IN THIS MATTER, PARTICULARLY IF ASSISTANCE COULD BE ARRANGED ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS WITHIN SPECIFIC AND LIMITED TIME FRAME. WE REALIZE THAT DMR WOULD HAVE TO SUBMIT SPECIFIC, DETAILED PROPOSAL BEFORE DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE DEFINITIVE RESPONSE. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, APPRECIATE RECEIVING BROAD-BRUSH GUIDANCE FOR A RESPONSE TO MR. PHISUT.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL GAS, STUDIES, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO00386
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770006-0758
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770173/aaaactlx.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 93a030dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGKOK 32047, 77 BANGKOK 34098
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3648310
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20040910
Subject: COUNTRY FINANCED SERVICES: RTG REQUEST FOR NATURAL GAS PROJECT ASSISTANCE
TAGS: ENRG, EINV, TH, US, (PHISUT SUDASNA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93a030dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009